



# Easy Water-Wise Living

Lunch & Learn  
August 25, 2010

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*“Research shows...  
many people want to save water,  
but don’t know where to start.”*



- California Department  
of Water Resources

# California Water

- Mediterranean climate
  - Cool wet winters
  - Hot dry summers
- Rain / snow falls quickly in large volumes
- Large conveyance systems carry water from the source to urban / ag users



3

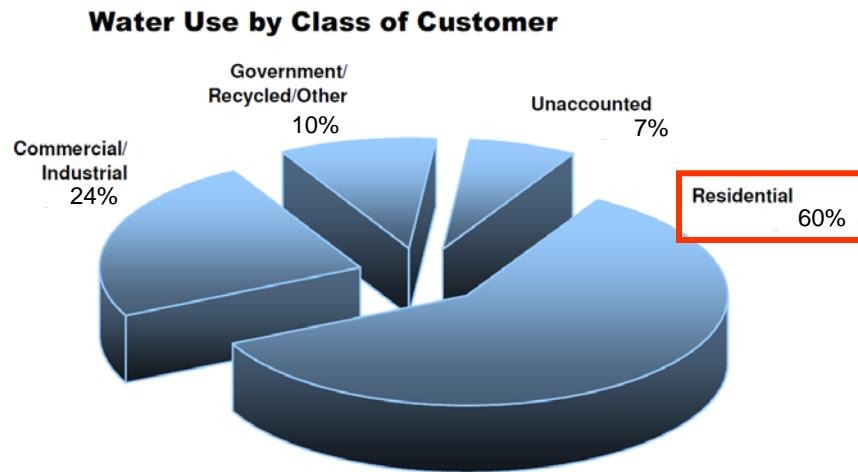
# Why Conserve?

- Good for the Earth
  - Increased demand for a finite supply
    - Population growth
    - Environmental needs
    - Climate change
- Good for your Wallet
  - Save water, energy, maintenance = \$\$
  - Take advantage of current incentive programs



4

# San Francisco Bay Area Water Use

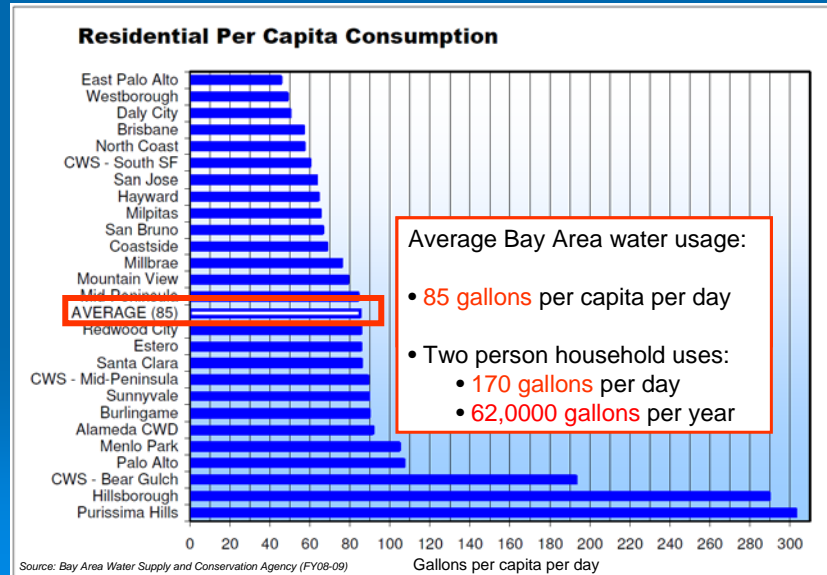


Source: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (FY 08-09)

## Question

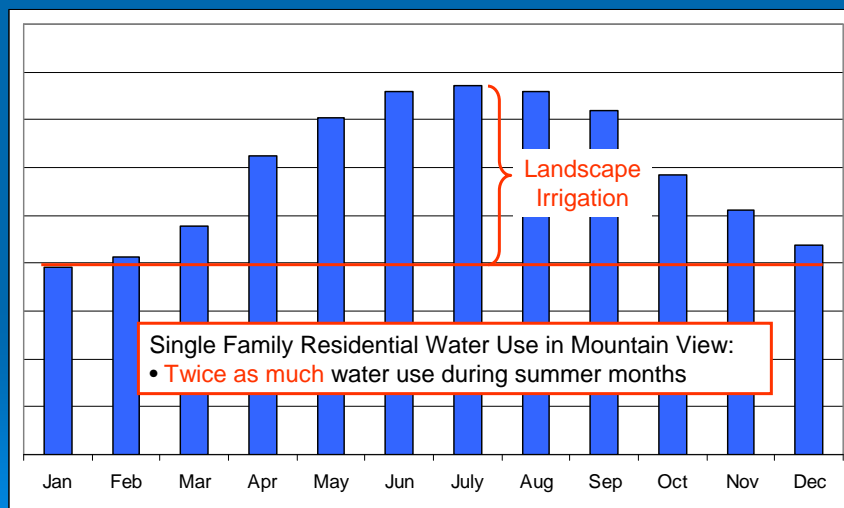
- How much water do you use every day?

# San Francisco Bay Area Water Use



7

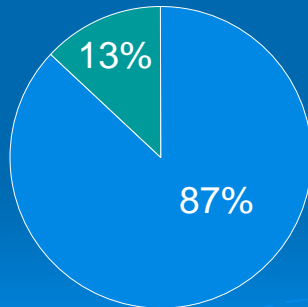
# Seasonal Changes in Water Use



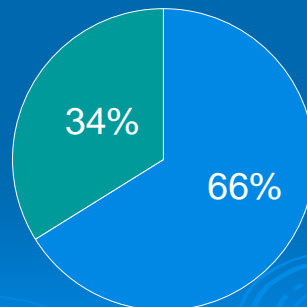
8

## Residential Water Use in Mountain View

Multifamily



Single Family

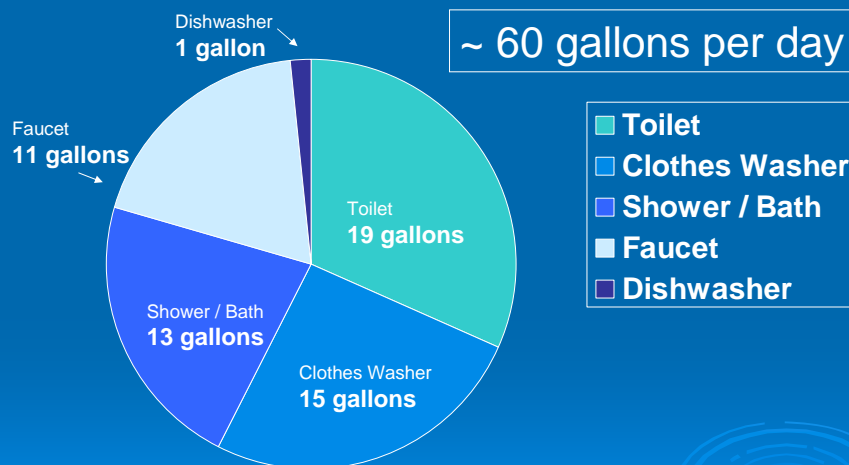


Indoor  
Outdoor

Source: City of Mountain View Utility Billing System (2008)

9

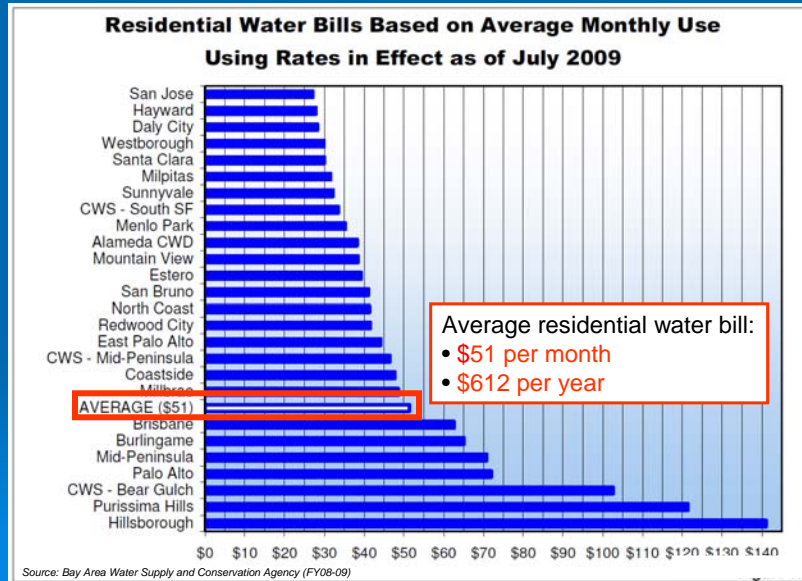
## Indoor End-Uses of Water



Source: American Water Works Foundation

10

# San Francisco Bay Area Water Bills



11

# Indoor Water Conservation



12

## Easy Ways to Save Indoors

### Tip

- Fix drips
- Check your toilet for leaks
- Wash full loads
- Shorten your showers
- Turn off the faucet



### Water Savings

- 8 gal / day
- 200 gal / day
- (5 minutes equals)
- 13 gallons
- 8 gal / day

Source: Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense® website

13

## Fixture Upgrades

### Tip

- Install a high-efficiency toilet
- Purchase a high-efficiency clothes washer
- Install low-flow showerheads
- Install low-flow faucet aerators



### Water Savings

- 2-11 gal / day  
(20-60% per flush)
- 8 gal / day  
(50% per load)
- 3-15 gal / day  
(20-40% per minute)
- 8 gal / day  
(40% per minute)

14

## Outdoor Water Conservation



15

## Easy Ways to Save Outdoors

- Water in the early morning / late evening when there is less wind and temperatures are cooler
- Reduce watering days and increase intervals to promote root growth



- Update your schedule based on the season

16



# Easy Ways to Save Outdoors

- Check your sprinklers frequently for leaks and adjust spray heads to prevent runoff



- Use mulch on exposed ground to keep soil moist



- Mow high (instead of short)
- Use a broom (not a hose) to clean sidewalks

17



## Recommended Irrigation Schedules



For "Spray Head" Irrigation Systems



Grass Lawn / Turf				
	Winter (Dec - Feb)	Spring (Mar - May)	Summer (Jun - Aug)	Fall (Sept - Nov)
Days Per Week	Off	3	4	2
Number of Cycles	Off	3	3	3
Minutes per Cycle	Off	5	5	5
<b>Total Minutes per Week</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>

Shrubs and Ground Covers				
	Winter (Dec - Feb)	Spring (Mar - May)	Summer (Jun - Aug)	Fall (Sept - Nov)
Days Per Week	Off	2	3	2
Number of Cycles	Off	2	2	2
Minutes per Cycle	Off	5	5	5
<b>Total Minutes per Week</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>

Low Water Use / Drought Tolerant Plants				
	Winter (Dec - Feb)	Spring (Mar - May)	Summer (Jun - Aug)	Fall (Sept - Nov)
Days Per Week	Off	1	2	1
Number of Cycles	Off	2	2	2
Minutes per Cycle	Off	5	5	5
<b>Total Minutes per Week</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>

## Landscape & Irrigation Upgrades

➤ Install an efficient irrigation system

➤ Reduce or replace your lawn

➤ Plant low water-use plants

➤ Separate hydrozones  
(areas of low, medium, and high water use)



- Rainwater harvesting
- Graywater irrigation
- Swales
- Pervious pavement

19

## Traditional vs. Sustainable Landscape

Water	Yard Waste	Maintenance
57,000 gallons	670 pounds	80 hours
		

“Traditional” Landscape

Source: Deva Luna 20

## Traditional vs. Sustainable Landscape

Water	Yard Waste	Maintenance
6,000 gallons 	250 pounds 	15 hours 

## “Sustainable” Landscape

Source: Deva Luna 21

## “LAWN” SUBSTITUTES



## Herbs, Groundcovers, Meadows

Source: Deva Luna



## Wildflowers in a meadow

Source: Deva Luna

23



## RED FESCUE *Festuca rubra*

Source: Deva Luna

24





## WESTERN FESCUE

*Festuca occidentalis*

Source: Deva Luna

25

## California Native Garden



Photo: Stephanie Morris

26

# Mediterranean Garden



Photo: Deva Luna

27

Learn how  
to beautify your  
garden and  
use water more  
efficiently!



\*All classes will be held in Mountain View

**BAWSCA**  
Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency

**FREE**

## Landscape Education Classes



**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>**  
6-9pm

Composting for Healthy  
Soil and Water-Efficiency

**Sept 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9am-12pm

Lawn Removal, Alternatives,  
and Management

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>**  
6-9pm

Landscaping with California  
Native Plants

**Oct 16<sup>th</sup>**  
9am-12pm

Water-Efficient Irrigation  
Techniques for the Garden

Call (650) 349-3000 for details and  
to reserve your spot!

Dozens of classes throughout the Bay Area!

28

## Programs and Rebates for Residents of Santa Clara County

Most cities / water agencies offer similar programs

- San Francisco County: [sfwater.org](http://sfwater.org)
- San Mateo County: [bawsca.org](http://bawsca.org)
- Alameda County: [bawsca.org](http://bawsca.org) or [ebmud.com](http://ebmud.com)

### Santa Clara County *Indoor Conservation Programs*

- Water-Wise House Call
- Clothes Washer Rebate
- High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate
- Free Low-Flow Showerheads and more...



**FREE**



**up to \$125**



**up to \$175**



**FREE**

30

## Santa Clara County Outdoor Conservation Programs

- Water-Wise House Call
- Water-Wise Plant Rebate
- Irrigation Equipment Rebate
- Smart Controller Rebate



**FREE**



**up to \$2,000**



**up to \$100  
per 500 sq ft**



**up to \$1,000**

31

## Web Resources



[conservewater.mountainview.gov](http://conservewater.mountainview.gov)



[valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org)



[save20gallons.org](http://save20gallons.org)



[h2ouse.org](http://h2ouse.org)



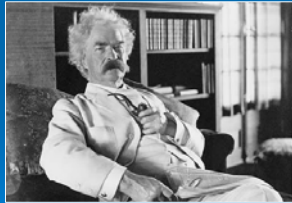
[saveourh2o.org](http://saveourh2o.org)





*"Whiskey is for drinking;  
water is for fighting over."*

- Mark Twain



33

Thank you for saving water!

Questions?